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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/809,004

03/25/2004

Shoupu Chen

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08/18/2009

Carestream Health, Inc.
150 Verona Street
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EXAMINER

LAMPRECHT, JOEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3737

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/18/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/809,004	Applicant(s) CHEN ET AL.	
	Examiner JOEL M. LAMPRECHT	Art Unit 3737	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 June 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 17-28, 30 and 31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 17-28, 30, 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 4/9/09 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-15, 17-28, 30, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Le (US 6,608,942) in view of Yokoi et al (US 2003/0023150 A1) and in further view of Zhang (US 6,181,810 B1). Le discloses a digital image processing method comprising acquiring image data (Col 2 Lines 5-40), detecting discontinuities (Col 2 Line 12-55), preserving edges and other significant structure (Col 9 Line 29-62), and adjusting the exposure of the image with the discontinuity preserved (Col 12 Line 55 – Col 13 Line 60), including thresholding the images (Col 12 Line 35-60), forming multiple masks from a thresholded image (Col 14 Line 10-65), and adjusting the properties (Col 15 Line 45 – Col 16 Line 42), including intensity variations, extremes, and contrast via those masks (Col 16 Line 49 – Col 17 Line 48). The development of those adjustments includes the creation of a smoothing band across a boundary (Col 17 Line 48 – Col 18 Line 65), and using gradients for color components to perform morphological filtering operations (Col 12 Line 17 – Col 13 Line 67). Additionally, Le uses masking alongside of filters to remove or preserve discontinuities from the images selectively (Col 14 Line 15-24), selectively intensify regions of the image based on threshold intensities on a scale (Col 16 Line 28 – Col 17 Line 25), and smoothing based on a selective width around a boundary line where intensity, and gradients thereof, provide a basis for smoothing (Col 8 Line 25 – Col 10 Line 20). Furthermore, the disclosure of Le provides a notification of a discontinuity to a remote site (Col 6 Line 40 – Col 7 Line 25), and an examination bundle processing system for transmitting data from the processed images to an external source or to a display means (Col 7 line 10-25).

Le does not disclose the acquisition of images from an in vivo camera system, or a wireless communication link between the image processing system and the in vivo camera system coupled to a Personal Digital Device or provide a specific step-by-step mask generation and modification in such simple terms. Attention is then paid to the secondary reference by Yokoi et al, which discloses a method for acquiring in vivo image data (0062), wirelessly transferring that data to a personal digital device and then to a computer for processing (0073).

Additionally, Le does not provide from the case where edge data is modified for smoothing but not for intensity as Le provides for both smoothing and normalization of the data in the detected edge. Attention is paid to the teaching reference to Zhang for the purpose of showing that in the same area of endeavor, multiple mask sets can be formulated and applied to filtering operations in order to preserve features such as intensity in some regions, while normalizing or otherwise modifying those features in another region of a medical image (Col 2 Line 30-Col 3 Line 25). Specifically when a substantial amount of speckle or discontinuous pixilation occurs (Col 3 Line 30-Col 4 Line 15). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have incorporated the teachings of Zheng with those of Le and Yokoi et al for the purpose of facilitating a multiple feature-based filters for regions of patient images.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-15, 17-28, 30 and 31 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOEL M. LAMPRECHT whose telephone number is (571)272-3250. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian L. Casler can be reached on (571) 272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JML

/BRIAN CASLER/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3737